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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/940,668	08/29/2001	Ryota Motobayashi	WN-2373	4767

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EXAMINER	
LEE, ANDREW CHUNG CHEUNG	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2664	

DATE MAILED: 04/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/940,668	MOTOBAYASHI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Andrew C Lee	2664	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *29 August 2001*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-32* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-32* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *Mar 31, 2004*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

- Line numbering is required for the disclosure (specification, claims and abstract).
- There is a typo on page 40, line 4, MPU should be corrected as MCU.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1 – 13, 17, 18, 20 – 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Michelson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6665730 B1) in view of Yamamoto (U.S. Patent No. 5991276).

Regarding claims 1, 2, 8, 18, 24, Michelson et al. discloses the limitation of an ATM name system (ANS) (column 3, lines 38 – 58), Michelson et al. also discloses the limitation of the request indicating a room name assigned to the destined conference room terminal (column 4, lines 65 – 67; column 5, lines 1 – 15), comprising: a storage section for storing the room name and an ATM end system address (AESA) of the destined conference room terminal (column 6, lines 24 – 34); and processing means for processing the request to resolve the AESA of the destined conference room terminal by referring to the storage by the use of the room name and to send a resolved AESA to the calling conference room terminal (column 6, lines 31 – 42). Michelson et al. does not disclose expressly for use in a network system which carries out a conference between a plurality of conference room terminals through an ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode) network, the conference room terminals comprising a calling conference room terminal for issuing a request for address resolution to the ANS before establishment of a connection between the calling conference room terminal and a destined one of the conference room terminals. Yamamoto discloses the limitation of using in a network system which carries out a conference between a plurality of conference room terminals through an ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode) network (Fig.1, column 3, lines 1 – 11), the conference room terminals comprising a calling conference room terminal for issuing a request for address resolution to the ANS before establishment of a connection between the calling conference room terminal and a destined one of the conference room terminals (column 3, lines 12 – 28). It would have

been obvious to modify Michelson et al. to include for use in a network system which carries out a conference between a plurality of conference room terminals through an ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode) network, the conference room terminals comprising a calling conference room terminal for issuing a request for address resolution to the ANS before establishment of a connection between the calling conference room terminal and a destined one of the conference room terminals such as that taught by Yamamoto in order to provide a multipoint videoconference system which efficiently delivers video and voice information along with various types of material data to realize a more realistic teleconferencing environment.

Regarding claim 3, Michelson et al. discloses the limitation of an ATM name system (column 3, lines 38 – 58) as claimed in 2, Michelson et al. does not disclose expressly wherein the storage section further comprises: a reservation database for storing a reservation that is specified by a start time and an end time of the conference together with the connection. Yamamoto discloses the limitation of wherein the storage section further comprises: a reservation database for storing a reservation that is specified by a start time and an end time of the conference together with the connection (Fig. 9, column 9, lines 22 – 24). It would have been obvious to modify Michelson et al. to include wherein the storage section further comprises: a reservation database for storing a reservation that is specified by a start time and an end time of the conference together with the connection such as that taught by Yamamoto in order to provide a multipoint videoconference system which efficiently delivers video and voice information

along with various types of material data to realize a more realistic teleconferencing environment.

Regarding claim 4, Michelson et al. discloses the limitation of an ATM name system (column 3, lines 38 – 58) as claimed in claim 3, Michelson et al. does not disclose expressly wherein the processing means comprises: judging means for judging whether or not the conference is reserved by referring to the reservation database to monitor the start and the end times when the reservation is made in connection with the conference. Yamamoto discloses the limitation of wherein the processing means comprises: judging means for judging whether or not the conference is reserved by referring to the reservation database to monitor the start and the end times when the reservation is made in connection with the conference (column 9, lines 45 – 53). It would have been obvious to modify Michelson et al. to include wherein the processing means comprises: judging means for judging whether or not the conference is reserved by referring to the reservation database to monitor the start and the end times when the reservation is made in connection with the conference such as that taught by Yamamoto in order to provide a multipoint videoconference system which efficiently delivers video and voice information along with various types of material data to realize a more realistic teleconferencing environment.

Regarding claim 5, Michelson et al. discloses the limitation of an ATM name (column 3, lines 38 – 58) system as claimed in claim 4, Michelson et al. does not

disclose expressly wherein the judging means further starts the connection at the start time when the reservation is made, so as to hold the conference between the calling and the destined conference room terminals. Yamamoto discloses the limitation of wherein the judging means further starts the connection at the start time when the reservation is made, so as to hold the conference between the calling and the destined conference room terminals (column 9, lines 64 – 67; column 10, lines 1 – 10). It would have been obvious to modify Michelson et al. to include wherein the judging means further starts the connection at the start time when the reservation is made, so as to hold the conference between the calling and the destined conference room terminals such as that taught by Yamamoto in order to provide a multipoint videoconference system which efficiently delivers video and voice information along with various types of material data to realize a more realistic teleconferencing environment.

Regarding claim 6, Michelson et al. discloses the limitation of an ATM name (column 3, lines 38 – 58) system as claimed in claim 5, Michelson et al. does not disclose expressly wherein the judging means judges whether or not a conference duration between the start and the end times lapses, to send, prior to the end time, a previous announcement of releasing the connection to at least one of the calling and the destined conference room terminals. Yamamoto discloses the limitation of wherein the judging means judges whether or not a conference duration between the start and the end times lapses, to send, prior to the end time, a previous announcement of releasing the connection to at least one of the calling and the destined conference room terminals

(column 12, lines 50 – 59). It would have been obvious to modify Michelson et al. to include wherein the judging means judges whether or not a conference duration between the start and the end times lapses, to send, prior to the end time, a previous announcement of releasing the connection to at least one of the calling and the destined conference room terminals such as that taught by Yamamoto in order to provide a multipoint videoconference system which efficiently delivers video and voice information along with various types of material data to realize a more realistic teleconferencing environment.

Regarding claims 7, 31, Michelson et al. discloses the limitation of An ATM name (column 3, lines 38 – 58) system as claimed in claimed wherein the storage section further comprises: a topology database for storing a topology of each conference room terminal in the network system (column 5, lines 1 – 15); and a connection database for storing a connection relationship between the calling and the destined conference room terminals (column 6, lines 24 – 31); the processing means monitoring the conference with referring to the topology and the connection relationship stored in the topology and the connection databases (column 6, lines 43 – 57).

Regarding claim 9, Michelson et al. discloses the limitation of an ATM name (column 3, lines 38 – 58) system as claimed in claim 8, further comprising: a topology database for storing topology data representative of positions of the calling and the destined conference room terminals in the network system (column 5, lines 1 – 15), but

Michelson et al. does not disclose expressly band data representative of bands of transmission channels used in the multipoint conference; the processing means being for selecting the MCU by referring to the topology database. Yamamoto discloses the limitation of band data representative of bands of transmission channels used in the multipoint conference (Fig. 3, column 4, lines 59 – 66; column 5, lines 1 – 5); the processing means being for selecting the MCU by referring to the topology database (column 9, lines 49 – 53). It would have been obvious to modify Michelson et al. to include band data representative of bands of transmission channels used in the multipoint conference; the processing means being for selecting the MCU by referring to the topology database such as that taught by Yamamoto in order to provide a multipoint videoconference system which efficiently delivers video and voice information along with various types of material data to realize a more realistic teleconferencing environment.

Regarding claim 10, Michelson et al. discloses the limitation of an ATM name (column 3, lines 38 – 58) system as claimed in claim 9, Michelson et al. does not disclose expressly wherein the processing means selects the MCU by recognizing the positions of the calling and the destined conference room terminals and by predicting occupied bands from the band data. Yamamoto discloses the limitation of wherein the processing means selects the MCU by recognizing the positions of the calling and the destined conference room terminals and by predicting occupied bands from the band data (column 9, lines 49 – 51; lines 64 – 67). It would have been obvious to modify

Michelson et al. to include wherein the processing means selects the MCU by recognizing the positions of the calling and the destined conference room terminals and by predicting occupied bands from the band data such as that taught by Yamamoto in order to provide a multipoint videoconference system which efficiently delivers video and voice information along with various types of material data to realize a more realistic teleconferencing environment.

Regarding claim 11, Michelson et al. discloses the limitation of an ATM name (column 3, lines 38 – 58) system as claimed in claim 8, Michelson et al. does not disclose expressly wherein the communication means issues a call setup request to the MCU after the AESA of the MCU is resolved. Yamamoto discloses the limitation of wherein the communication means issues a call setup request to the MCU after the AESA of the MCU is resolved (column 3, lines 15 – 20; column 4, lines 3 – 15). It would have been obvious to modify Michelson et al. to include wherein the communication means issues a call setup request to the MCU after the AESA of the MCU is resolved such as that taught by Yamamoto in order to provide a multipoint videoconference system which efficiently delivers video and voice information along with various types of material data to realize a more realistic teleconferencing environment.

Regarding claim 12, Michelson et al. discloses the limitation of an ATM name (column 3, lines 38 – 58) system as claimed in claim 8, Michelson et al. does not disclose expressly further comprising: a connection database for storing each occupied

band of currently used transmission channels and a reserved state; the processing means comprising: judging means for judging whether or not the connections are established by referring to each occupied band and the reserved state of the connection database. Yamamoto discloses the limitation of further comprising: a connection database for storing each occupied band of currently used transmission channels and a reserved state (Fig. 9, column 9, lines 22 – 31); the processing means comprising: judging means for judging whether or not the connections are established by referring to each occupied band and the reserved state of the connection database (column 9, lines 49 – 53; lines 64 – 67). It would have been obvious to modify Michelson et al. to include further comprising: a connection database for storing each occupied band of currently used transmission channels and a reserved state; the processing means comprising: judging means for judging whether or not the connections are established by referring to each occupied band and the reserved state of the connection database such as that taught by Yamamoto in order to provide a multipoint videoconference system which efficiently delivers video and voice information along with various types of material data to realize a more realistic teleconferencing environment.

Regarding claim 13, Michelson et al. discloses the limitation of an ATM name (column 3, lines 38 – 58) system as claimed in claim 12, Michelson et al. does not disclose expressly wherein the judging means also refers to an occupied state of the MCU so as to establish the connections. Yamamoto discloses the limitation of wherein the judging means also refers to an occupied state of the MCU so as to establish the

connections (column 9, lines 49 – 53). It would have been obvious to modify Michelson et al. to include wherein the judging means also refers to an occupied state of the MCU so as to establish the connections such as that taught by Yamamoto in order to provide a multipoint videoconference system which efficiently delivers video and voice information along with various types of material data to realize a more realistic teleconferencing environment.

Regarding claim 17, Michelson et al. discloses the limitation of an ATM name (column 3, lines 38 – 58) system as claimed, Michelson et al. does not disclose expressly an ATM name system as claimed in claim 16, wherein the processing means further comprises: means for informing the calling conference room terminal of impossibility of connections in response to the request for address resolution when the connections cannot be established. Yamamoto discloses the limitation of an ATM name system as claimed in claim 16, wherein the processing means further comprises: means for informing the calling conference room terminal of impossibility of connections in response to the request for address resolution when the connections cannot be established (column 10, lines 31 – 35). It would have been obvious to modify Michelson et al. to include a an ATM name system as claimed in claim 16, wherein the processing means further comprises: means for informing the calling conference room terminal of impossibility of connections in response to the request for address resolution when the connections cannot be established such as that taught by Yamamoto in order to to provide a multipoint videoconference system which efficiently delivers video and voice

information along with various types of material data to realize a more realistic teleconferencing environment.

Regarding claim 20, Michelson et al. discloses the limitation of an ATM name (column 3, lines 38 – 58) system as claimed in claim 18, wherein the processing means resolves the AESA assigned to the destined conference room terminal (column 5, lines 46 – 55).

Regarding claim 21, Michelson et al. discloses the limitation of an ATM name system as claimed in claim 18, wherein the processing means resolves the AESA assigned to a multipoint conference unit (MCU) (column 6, lines 24 – 31).

Regarding claim 22, Michelson et al. discloses the limitation of an ATM name system as claimed in claim 18, wherein the calling and the destined conference room terminals are connected by SVC (Switched Virtual Connection) (column 1, lines 57 – 62).

Regarding claims 23, 26, Michelson et al. discloses the limitation of an ATM name system (ANS) for use in a network system which carries out a conference between calling and destined conference room terminals connected by PVC (Permanent Virtual Connection) through an ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode) network (column 2, lines 9 – 11; lines 16 – 30), comprising: a storage for storing PVC

data concerned with the destined conference room terminal (column 2, lines 48 – 59); and processing means for processing the PVC data so as to establish the PVC between the calling and the destined conference room terminals when the conference is requested (column 4, lines 31 – 39; column 5, lines 26 – 30).

Regarding claims 25, Michelson et al. discloses the limitation of a network system as claimed in claim 24, wherein the address is an AESA (ATM end system address) which is assigned to a selected one of the conference room terminals and which is stored as the address resolution data in the storage (column 5, lines 46 – 55).

Regarding claim 27, Michelson et al. discloses the limitation of a network system as claimed in claim 24, Michelson et al. does not disclose expressly wherein the ANS is connected to each conference room terminal through a LAN (Local area network) different from the ATM network. Yamamoto discloses the limitation of each conference room terminal through a LAN (Local area network) different from the ATM network (column 4, lines 28 – 31). It would have been obvious to modify Michelson et al. to include wherein the ANS is connected to each conference room terminal through a LAN (Local area network) different from the ATM network as that taught by Yamamoto in order to provide a multipoint videoconference system which efficiently delivers video and voice information along with various types of material data to realize a more realistic teleconferencing environment.

Regarding claims 28, Michelson et al. discloses the limitation of a network system as claimed in claim 24, wherein the storage stores the address resolution data which have no hierarchical structure and which therefore uniquely define each conference room terminal (column 5, lines 65 – 67; column 5, lines 1 – 11).

Regarding claims 29, 30, Michelson et al. discloses the limitation of a network system as claimed in claim 24, further comprising: a multipoint conference unit (MCU) accessed by the ANS on a multipoint conference and given a specific AESA (column 5, lines 45 – 55; column 6, lines 22 – 34).

Regarding claims 32, Michelson et al. discloses the limitation of a network system as claimed in claim 31, Michelson et al. does not disclose expressly wherein the storage further comprises: a reservation database for storing reservation data concerned with a reservation of the conference; and a connection database for storing connection data concerned with a connection path used in the conference. Yamamoto discloses the limitation of wherein the storage further comprises: a reservation database for storing reservation data concerned with a reservation of the conference (Fig. 9, column 9, lines 22 – 24); and a connection database for storing connection data concerned with a connection path used in the conference (Fig. 9, column 9, lines 24 – 31). It would have been obvious to modify Michelson et al. to include wherein the storage further comprises: a reservation database for storing reservation data concerned with a reservation of the conference; and a connection database for storing

connection data concerned with a connection path used in the conference as that taught by Yamamoto in order to provide a multipoint videoconference system which efficiently delivers video and voice information along with various types of material data to realize a more realistic teleconferencing environment.

5. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Michelson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6665730 B1) and Yamamoto (U.S. Patent No. 5991276), as applied to claims 1 –13, 17,18, 20 – 32 above in further view of Wang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6636505 B1).

Regarding claim 19, both Michelson et al. and Yamamoto fail to disclose the limitation of an ATM network system as claimed in claim 18, wherein the additional network is an intranet. Wang et al. discloses the limitation of an ATM network system as claimed in claim 18, wherein the additional network is an intranet (Fig. 6, column 10, lines 55 – 59). It would have been obvious to modify both Michelson et al. and Yamamoto to include an ATM network system as claimed in claim 18, wherein the additional network is an intranet such as that taught by Wang et al. in order to provide a method for automatically provisioning a broadband communication service to a subscriber having a broadband modem.

6. Claims 14, 15, 16, 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over combination of Michelson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6665730 B1) and Yamamoto

(U.S. Patent No. 5991276) and Wang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6636505 B1) as applied to claims 1 –13, 17,18 – 32 above, and further in view of Izawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5796734).

Regarding claim 14, Michelson et al. and Yamamoto and Wang et al. do not disclose expressly the limitation of an ATM name system as claimed in claim 8, further comprising: means for storing a priority level of each conference room terminal; the processing means comprising: means for determining the connections with reference to the priority level so as to preferentially establish the connections related to the conference room terminal of a higher priority level, when any congestion takes place in the network system. Izawa et al. discloses the limitation of an ATM name system as claimed in claim 8, further comprising: means for storing a priority level of each conference room terminal (column 4, lines 8 – 13); the processing means comprising: means for determining the connections with reference to the priority level so as to preferentially establish the connections related to the conference room terminal of a higher priority level (Fig. 5, column 3, lines 66 – 67; column 4, lines 1 – 13), when any congestion takes place in the network system (Fig. 5, column 4, lines 13 – 15). It would have been obvious to modify Michelson et al. and Yamamoto and Wang et al. to include an ATM name system as claimed in claim 8, further comprising: means for storing a priority level of each conference room terminal; the processing means comprising: means for determining the connections with reference to the priority level so as to preferentially establish the connections related to the conference room terminal of a

higher priority level, when any congestion takes place in the network system such as that taught by Izawa et al. in order to provide a method for controlling simultaneously-ocurring messages in a communication system where one-message is transmitted using one or a plurality of data units.

Regarding claim 15, both Michelson et al. and Yamamoto and Wang et al. do not disclose expressly the limitation of an ATM name system as claimed in claim 14, wherein the processing means comprises: means for forcibly releasing an existing connection in consideration of an occupied state of the transmission channels and the MCU. Izawa et al. discloses the limitation of an ATM name system as claimed in claim 14, wherein the processing means comprises: means for forcibly releasing an existing connection in consideration of an occupied state of the transmission channels (column 12, lines 66 – 67; column 13, lines 1 – 4). It would have been obvious to modify both Michelson et al. and Yamamoto and Wang et al. to include an ATM name system as claimed in claim 14, wherein the processing means comprises: means for forcibly releasing an existing connection in consideration of an occupied state of the transmission channels such as that taught by Izawa et al. in order to provide a method for controlling simultaneously-ocurring messages in a communication system where one-message is transmitted using one or a plurality of data units.

Regarding claim 16, Michelson et al. and Yamamoto and Wang et al. do not disclose expressly the limitation of an ATM name system as claimed in claim 15,

wherein the processing means comprises: means for transmitting an indication of forcibly releasing to conference room terminals to be released. Izawa et al. discloses the limitation of an ATM name system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the processing means comprises: means for transmitting an indication of forcibly releasing (column 12, lines 66 – 67; column 13, lines 1 – 6) to conference room terminals to be released. It would have been obvious to modify Michelson et al. and Yamamoto and Wang et al. to include an ATM name system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the processing means comprises: means for transmitting an indication of forcibly releasing to conference room terminals to be released such as that taught by Izawa et al. in order to to provide a method for controlling simultaneously-ocurring messages in a communication system where one-message is transmitted using one or a plurality of data units.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew C. Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-3131. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30am - 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wellington Chin can be reached on (571) 272-3134. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ACL AU::2664 March 30, 2005

Ajit Patel
Primary Examiner